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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 25 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 20 February 1997.

On that day, at 1539 hours, two Turkish military RF-4 planes violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, entering the Nicosia flight information region, remaining for approximately 40 minutes and exiting at 1620 hours.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. At the same time, they heighten tension in Cyprus and are in contravention of the provisions of repeated Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the United Nations on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58 of the fifty-first session, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations

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